

Accessing the Donner Lake Rim Trail

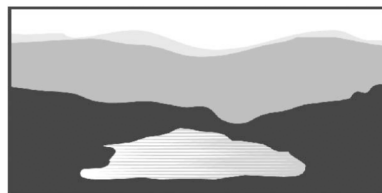
The completed portion of the Donner Lake Rim Trail can be accessed from several places and is marked with blue and white emblem trail markers. **If you are not familiar with the areas described be sure to consult a detailed area map, and/or a person well acquainted with the described areas.**

Negro Canyon: Exit I-80 at the Donner Lake Interchange (west end of Donner Lake), or take Donner Lake Road from the west end of Donner Lake under I-80. A dirt road leaves the interchange on the north side of I-80 and quickly takes you to a large dirt parking area. Stay to the right of the Rim Trail informational kiosk and follow the access road up the east (right) side of Negro Canyon. The new access trail, called Wendin Way, begins on the left side of this road, about one hundred feet past the gate. After roughly one mile the access trail intersects with the Donner Lake Rim Trail. Proceed to the west (left) to Summit Lake, or to the east (right) to Tahoe Donner.

Tahoe Donner: Access the Rim Trail from Tahoe Donner's Glacier Way trailhead. Follow the Tahoe Donner trail system to Drifter Hut. Near the hut a small sign marks the beginning of the Donner Lake Rim Trail. This section of the trail goes down several switchbacks and into Negro Canyon. It continues across Negro Canyon, crossing several bridges, before climbing to Summit Lake. Watch for the blue and white emblem trail markers.

I-80 at the Summit: Access the Rim Trail via Summit Lake starting at either the Pacific Crest Trail trailhead near Boreal (Castle Peak exit, south side of I-80), or the I-80 West Donner Summit Rest Area (parking is limited to 4 hours). Summit Lake is roughly 1.25 miles north of the intersection of the Pacific Crest Trail and the Warren Lake/Summit Lake trail. The Rim Trail proceeds from the southeast corner of Summit Lake, towards Negro Canyon and Tahoe Donner. **Reminder, the Pacific Crest Trail is closed to all wheeled traffic.**

Castle Valley Road (hiking, equestrian, and bicycle access at Donner Summit): Exit I-80 at Boreal Ridge Road, and proceed north on Castle Valley road to the gate. Park before the pavement ends. The trail from Summit Lake west to Castle Valley has been completed and provides a non-motorized multi-use trail connection between Negro Canyon and the Castle Peak area, including the Hole-in-the-Ground Trail. To access this section from Donner Summit, park on Castle Valley Road (Castle Peak Exit north of I-80). Proceed by foot, horse, or bike north on Castle Valley Road until a prominent fork. Turn right and follow the double-track for ½ mile. The single-track begins on the right side of the road, and is signed.



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